

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MONROV 02962 211925Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MONROVIA 2962

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, GV, LI
SUBJECT: LIBERIAN AND PAPAL NUNCIO INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF
ARCHBISHOP TCHIDIMBO

REF: MONROVIA 2888; CONAKRY 0763

1. FONMIN C. CECIL DENNIS, JR. GAVE AMBASSADOR ADDITIONAL
SITREP ON ARCHBISHOP TCHIDIMBO FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 21 APRIL.
ACCORDING TO DENNIS, TCHIDIMBO HAS ALREADY TENDERED HIS
RESIGNATION AND IT IS BEING PASSED ON TO THE VATICAN BY
ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS CARROLL, PAPAL NUNCIO IN LIBERIA. DENNIS SAID
THAT TCHIDIMBO STATED THAT HIS RESIGNATION WAS PLANNED IN
1965 WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD ONLY SERVE FOR TEN
YEAR PERIOD. HE CLAIMED THAT HIS RESIGNATION WAS NOT UNDER
DURESS.

2. WHEN QUESTIONED BY CARROLL AND DENNIS AS TO WHAT HE MIGHT
SAY ABOUT TOURE AND GUINEA UPON HIS RELEASE, TCHIDIMBO SAID "A
PRIEST DOES NOT LOOK BACK. HE LOOKS AHEAD." HE WENT ON TO
EXPLAIN THAT HE WAS BASICALLY A MISSIONARY AND CARROLL AND
DENNIS INTERPRETED THAT TO MEAN THAT HE WOULD NOT DO ANY-
THING TO PLACE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GUINEA IN ANY JEOPARDY
BASED ON STATEMENTS HE MIGHT MAKE.

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3. DENNIS REVEALED THAT TCHIDIMBO'S ULTIMATE RELEASE
WAS BASED ON THE RESIGNATIONWHICH IS NOW BEING TENDERED
AND TH NOMINATION OF A NEW ARCHBISHOP BY THE VATICAN.
DENNIS SAYS WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE TCHIDIMBO
WILL BE TURNED OVER TO LIBERIAN AND HE WILL PRESUMBALY
COME TO MONROVIA BEFORE POSSIBLY RETURNING TO SENEGAL,

HIS NATIVE HOME.

4. DENNIS SAID THAT TOURE ALSO ASKED THE VATICAN TO RESTORE "PRIESTLY DUTIES" TO A FNU ABBISOCK. ABBISOCK, DENNIS SASY, WAS AT ONE TIME SECON-IN-COMMAND TO TCHIDIMBO BUT THAT HE SUFFERED REPRISALS FROM TCHIDIMBO BECAUSE OF ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR SEKOU TOURE. TOURE CLAIMS TCHIDIMBO "EXPULSED" ABBISOCK FROM THE CHURCH IN GUINEA AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE IS NOW SOMEWHERE IN CANADA. CARTER

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NNN

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